Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00423 032112Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /060 W

-----016265 032117Z/56

P 031835Z NOV 77 FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1169 INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY AMCONSUL MONTREAL AMCONSUL TORONTO POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PORS, PGOV, CA

SUBJ: PIERRE MAY NEED SOME NEW TAILORING M. CARDIN*

REF: OTTAWA 9479

1. RECENT REVELATIONS OF ILLEGAL RCMP CAPERS IN QUEBEC HAVE CAUSED ONLY A MODEST STIR HERE THUSFAR. RATHER THAN BREAST-BEATING INDIGNATION, PQ LEADERS HAVE REACTED WITH BEMUSED EXPRESSIONS OF -- SO WHAT'S NEW ABOUT RCMP GUM-SHOE HARASSMENT OF PQ? PAUCITY OF EXPRESSIONS IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONVERSATION OF MORAL INDIGNATION SEEMS BE PARTIALLY RESULT OF MUTED REACTION OF PROVINCIAL LEADERS AND PARTIALLY DUE TO PREOCCUPATION OF QUEBECOIS WITH OTHER DRAMATIC EVENTS SUCH AS CURRENT VISIT OF RENE LEVESQUE IN FRANCE.

2. COMMENT: ASSUME PQ'S LOW-KEYED REACTION IS BASED ON THEIR ASSESSMENT THAT REVELATION LIKELY CAUSE MAXIMUM POLITICAL DAMAGE TO LIBERALS IF ANGLOPHONE CANADIANS ARE NOT DISTRACTED BY LOUD PROTEST FROM AUTHORS OF NATIONAL UNITY THREAT. FOR TIME BEING, PQ WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO SIT BACK GLEEFULLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WATCHING FEDERAL DISCOMFORT AS OPPOSITION BULLDOG IN OTTAWA GETS GOOD HOLD ON SEAT OF MR. TRUDEAU'S WELL TAILORED PANTS. OVER LONGER TERM, EVIDENCE OF RCMP EXCESSIVE ZEAL WILL PROBABLY BE USED TO REINFORCE CLAIMS THAT ALL POLICE ACTIVITIES IN QUEBEC BE UNDER CONTROL OF PROVINCE (SEE ALSO REFTEL). MCNAMARA

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